

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-19, and 21-35 are presented for further examination. Claim 1 has been amended pursuant to a telephone conference with the Examiner on September 28, 2006.

In the final Office Action mailed August 9, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 8-19 and 21-35 and found claims 6 and 7 to be allowable. Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected as unpatentable over Sidner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,945,769) in view of Elderstig (U.S. Patent No. 5,690,841).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the basis for the rejection and request reconsideration and further examination of the rejected claims.

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on Thursday, September 28, 2006, applicants' undersigned representative proposed an amendment to claim 1 in which the cavity was recited as having a wall and a bottom, and the cavity wall and bottom were coated with a layer of material inhibiting epitaxial growth. The Examiner agreed that this amendment would distinguish claim 1 from the Sidner et al. reference at column 2, lines 30-34, in which it is recited that the oxide layer is selectively removed from the bottom surface of the moat while leaving it along the original "sidewalls."

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowability of claim 1 as presently amended, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 3-5 are now in condition for allowance as are allowable claims 6 and 7.

In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 10/667,113
Reply to Office Action dated August 9, 2006

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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